

QA-100A  
John Cannon Granary  
Centreville vicinity  
Private

mid-19th century

This granary and corn crib is one of the best preserved examples of a type of farm building built in large numbers across the Eastern Shore in the late 18th and the 19th century. As a group they signal the transition in agriculture from an economy dominated by tobacco to a more diversified system with emphasis on corn and grain crops.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Granary at the John Cannon Farm, William Gardner Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Northeast of intersection of U.S. 301 and Md. 213

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William E. and Josephine B. Gardner

Telephone #: 643-5482

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cox Neck Road

CITY, TOWN

Chester

☐ VICINITY OFSTATE, zip code  
Maryland 21619**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 82

Folio #: 349

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-100A

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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The granary at the John Cannon farm lies to the east of the house. Covered with 20th century vertical board siding and a tin roof, this building is virtually indistinguishable from hundreds of other late 19th and 20th century farm buildings throughout the central Eastern Shore. An examination of the interior, however, makes it quite clear that this is an early farm building, certainly pre-dating the Civil War, and perhaps dating back to the late 18th century. Unfortunately, as is usually the case with rural farm buildings constructed entirely with mortise-and-tenon joints, there is no clearly dateable evidence to work with, and only a general idea of age can be established.

The building is twenty-eight feet by thirty feet, and is divided into a large granary with a corn crib incorporated under the same roof, extending along the west wall of the building. The two separate functions can be observed from the outside of the building due to the open, slat siding necessary to ventilate the crib.

The building rests on brick piers, and faces south, with a large batten door mounted on wrought

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

strap hinges on the south gable, and a smaller batten door in the north gable.

The interior is divided into a first floor and a loft in the granary, but the corn crib is open up to the roof. The framing consists of heavy, hewn posts arranged in series of bays. The posts used to frame the exterior walls are continuous through to the upper floor, but the interior posts support two girts, which run parallel to the ridge of the roof. Several of these posts have been replaced with modern, sawn timber, while several others are very finely crafted posts with chamfered edges. These are used both as posts and, in one case, as a plate. Although their origin is unknown, it is possible they were salvaged from nearby Taylor's Mill sometime earlier in this century.

The upper floor of the granary is uninterrupted by supporting posts. Unfortunately the roof is not original, and little remains to suggest the manner in which the earlier roof was framed. It seems probable that this would have consisted of common rafter pairs mortise-and-tenoned at the ridge and tied together with half-dovetailed collars. These were probably supported by the top plate on each side and a purlin supported

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

by interior posts. This is almost entirely conjecture, however.

Further evidence of alterations may be found by examining the up-braces and a series of iron tie rods in the crib. The up-braces are properly positioned, but are of circular sawn timber secured with machine nails, and do not utilise the mortise holes remaining from earlier braces. The iron tie rods replace original hewn tie beams, which were removed.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This granary and corn crib is a relatively unusual survival of a type of rural farm building that must have been common throughout the Queen Anne's County during the 18th and 19th century. Although it has been partially rebuilt, the overall form of the building and the separation of function are clearly preserved, as is most of the original frame.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

7/26/78

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

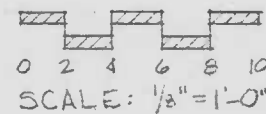
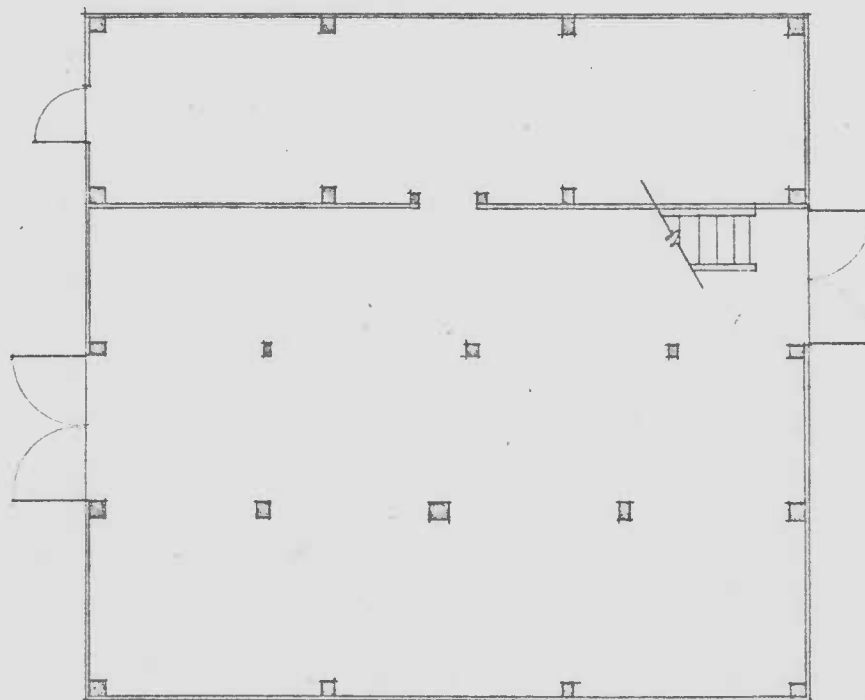
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



ORLANDO RIDOUT V

QA-100 A

GRANARY  
CENTREVILLE, MARYLAND

APRIL 23, 1978.





GA-100A  
John Cannon Granary

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT

